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SERIAL: (U)

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BODY=COUNTRY: (U) ZIMBABWE (ZI); DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
(CG);NAMIBIA (WA); ANGOLA (AO); UGANDA (UG); RWANDA (RW); SOUTH AFRICA
(SF).

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SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT MUGABE; ZIMBABWE'S
INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (~~CNF~~)
WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED
INTELLIGENCE. THE OVERALL CLASSIFICATION OF THIS REPORT IS ~~SECRET~~
~~NOFORN~~.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 980900 .

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SUMMARY: (~~CNF~~) ZIMBABWE'S CITIZENS HAVE VOICED MILD DISCONTENT
WITH PRESIDENT MUGABE'S DECISION TO DEPLOY TROOPS TO THE
DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT KABILA.

TEXT: 1. (~~CNF~~) SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT MUGABE. ZIMBABWE'S CITIZENS
HAVE VOICED MILD DISCONTENT WITH SOME OF THE POLICIES OF
PRESIDENT
ROBERT ((MUGABE)). PRESIDENT MUGABE DEPLOYED A BATTALION OF
TROOPS
(LATER INCREASED TO A BRIGADE) TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
CONGO
(DROC) IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT LAURENT ((KABILA)) WITHOUT THE
PRIOR
APPROVAL OF PARLIAMENT. NO PARTICULAR ZIMBABWEAN INDIVIDUAL OR
GROUP WAS SINGLED OUT AS VOICING DISAPPROVAL, BUT LOCAL
NEWSPAPERS
INDICATED THAT POPULAR OPINION HAD BEEN AGAINST PRESIDENT

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MUGABE'S
DECISION. THE ZIMBABWEAN SOLDIERS, ALONG WITHS OLDIERS FROM
NAMIBIA
AND ANGOLA, APPEARED TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN TURNING THE WAR IN
FAVOR
OF THE CURRENT DROC GOVERNMENT. THENUMBERS OF DEAD AND
WOUNDED
WERE SAID TO BE UNDER-REPORTED IN THE HARARE PRESS, WHICH
RESULTED
IN THE SUBSEQUENT PUBLICATION OF SKEPTICAL NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS.
THIS -DEBATE- LASTED FOR A FEW DAYS AND THEN DISAPPEARED FROM
THE
NEWSPAPERS ENTIRELY.

2. ~~(C/NF)~~ SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT. AN IMPASSE OVER DROC
OCCURRED
AT ONE POINT BETWEEN PRESIDENT MUGABE, WHO FAVORED SOUTHERN
AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) MILITARY ACTION IN DROC, AND
SOUTH
AFRICAN PRESIDENT NELSON ((MANDELA)), WHO FAVORED A DIPLOMATIC
SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS. DURING DISCUSSIONS HELD AT THE NON-ALIGNED
NATIONS CONFERENCE IN DURBAN [REDACTED] SOUTH
AFRICA, PRESIDENT MANDELA ULTIMATELY CONCEDED THAT A
DIPLOMATIC
SOLUTION COULD NOT BE FOUND TO THE SITUATION, AND APPROVED
SADC'S
INTERVENTION IN DROC IN SUPPORT OF KABILA'S GOVERNMENT.

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(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c);Sec.
1.4(d)

4. ~~(C/NF)~~ ECONOMIC STABILITY. THE COST OF LIVING FOR THE AVERAGE
ZIMBABWEAN CITIZEN IS QUITE HIGH. PRI CES FOR FOOD AND OTHER
STAPLES

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EXCEED WHAT CAN BE PURCHASED WITH STANDARD WAGES IN THE COUNTRY. AS A RESULT, THE HEAD OF THE TRADE UNION CALLED FOR A BRIEF NATIONWIDE STRIKE IN MAR 98 AS A SHOW OF DISCONTENT. ANOTHER STRIKE PLANNED FOR 7 SEP 98 WAS NARROWLY AVERTED WHEN THE GOVERNMENT CONCEDED TO MOST OF THE CRITICAL DEMANDS OF THE TRADE UNION (PRINCIPALLY TAX AND LEVY REBATES) IN LAST-MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS ON 4 SEP 98.

(b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4(c)

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